

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
29 MECHANIC STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
863-7288  
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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council met from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for Executive Session at Wind Gap Borough Hall.

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, Scott Parsons, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilpersons: Jon Faust, Kerry Gassler, Todd Beil, George Hinton, and Joe Weaver. Also in attendance were Mayor Mitchell d. Mogilski, Sr., and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Tony Curcio.

Council President Scott Parsons informed those present that Council met in Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation regarding the County Bond Issue.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Troy Leidy appeared before Council for a status report on the "driveway" behind his house that leads to the RPM Recycling Center. George Hinton informed him that a meeting was held and those in attendance included: Nolan Perin, Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, Jon Faust and George Hinton. George indicated that the feeling after the meeting was not too positive. That same evening Brian Pysher indicated that he would approach another partner of the recycling center to discuss the same issues. That partner stated that whatever Wind Gap wants will be done. Two days later a meeting was held and Met-Ed was contacted regarding moving the utility pole. RPM was informed that topsoil should be brought in and grass planted by the billboard. Troy stated that two men were out Monday looking at the pole. George stated that once the pole is moved 25 feet north, then the aprons could be put in, and the sidewalks will be installed or fixed. Troy asked if the crushed asphalt will be brought in for the driveway. George stated that he will contact the one partner and ask what the plans are for improving the dusk issue.
2. Evanne Maher, Wind Gap Beautification Committee, reported that the sign located at the CVS needs replaced. Evanne received one estimate to replace the sign, but no other contractor responded to her request to bid. The size of the sign will be increased by two feet wide and the size of the poles will be larger. There was a question of how well the sign, paint and graphics will hold up over time. Evanne spoke to the contractor and he stated that the manufacturer, Avery, guarantees the vinyl for up to nine (9) years and the baked on enamel finish of the plywood, which is aluminum coated, is guaranteed for twenty (20) years. Because the sign faces due south, the paint may start to fade in three (3) years, but that could easily be repainted. The money would come out of the Beautification budget. He would need 50% as a down payment to begin the project. Scott asked if the increase in the sign size would still stay within the zoning ordinance. Evanne spoke to the Zoning Officer to confirm it was legal and it conforms to the ordinance. Evanne stated that she would contact Techo-Bloc for a donation of the paver stones for the flower bed.  
**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve the replacement of the "Welcome to Wind Gap" sign at a cost of \$1,026.06 and seconded by Todd Beil. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Mayor Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. asked if the Beautification Committee has inquired whether the Slate Belt Council of Governments could assist in their project to have the sidewalks replaced along Route 512 in the Borough. Lorraine Rauscher indicated that a grant application was submitted to the Green Knight Economic Development Corporation to assist with funds to offset the expense of the engineering study, but no funds were awarded. The Committee is continuing to look for funding possibilities with assistance from the State Representatives and to apply for a PennDOT grant which could become available later this year. The Committee has decided to break the project down into a four year project. They are working on finding locations for the bus shelters, but the elderly apartments on North Broadway did not want one located there, so the committee has approached Kerry Gassler and is discussing the possibility of obtaining a portion of his land for a shelter. They are looking for two other sites. Lorraine stated that they would like to compose a letter to send to the homeowners informing them how much replacing the sidewalk would cost them to do on their own and possibly ask for a donation to offset the expense incurred by the Borough. The committee has already identified the block between First and Third Streets as the start for the project.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 5, 2008 and seconded by Todd Beil. Roll call vote taken. In favor: K. Gassler, G. Hinton, S. Parsons, J. Weaver, T. Beil. Abstained: J. Faust. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-1.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting. He is on the Ambulance Trustee Board and the ambulance is responding to 60 to 70 calls per month. They went to Hershey Park as a group to build unity among the corps. The Ambulance Corps has discussed a group paintball team building outing and would like to include the Fire Company. He will be attending the meeting tomorrow night.
2. Police – George Hinton reported that there was a police meeting to discuss the pension and some other topics. The police were not very cooperative in discussing any issues at the meeting.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio was absent. Zoning Officer, Darlene Plank-Turlington, reported that there was nothing last month.
4. Planning – Todd Beil had nothing to report.
5. Streets – George Hinton reported that the workers have been out painting the cross walks, working in the Park preparing for the Car Show, but unfortunately the show met with inclement weather which created more repairs to be done in the fields at the park. George reported that in response to the numerous complaints from residents regarding East West Street, traffic, speeding, number of vehicles, etc. he sat at various locations on the streets surrounding the quarry and has only missed one day. He reported his numbers which included: first day, 6:50 a.m. – 5 people walking on Lehigh Street, 1 in the Park, 1 school bus going south, 2 going north, 13 cars went south, 8 cars north, 2 trucks, very little noise. The Borough did purchase a decibel meter. The second day there was more truck traffic in and out; third day there was truck traffic. On any given day, there may be more truck traffic than other days. On top of the quarry, the back-up beepers for the equipment was 85 up to 125 decibels, but for the most part it is 65 – 70 decibels. This industrial site was dormant for several years, but now the owner of the property has found a use for the slate and that is causing problems for the neighbors. George stated that he has had this discussion with the neighbors when he has been sitting on West Street and they have all but acknowledged this to be true. George suggested having the committee sit with Jack Muschlitz and Willie to discuss their future plans, but he does not know what to tell the neighbors. Jon added that it is all bermed up and that forces the noise upward. Jon said that he and George walked the entire length of the property, and they have all the necessary permits to do the work at that location. Scott said that all members of Council received a copy of the petition which includes residents on Center and Alpha. Scott suggested writing a letter to send to these people and informing them what

has been done because the petition indicates that Council does not want to do anything about the situation and skirting duties. The petition included nine (9) pictures of trucks, but upon further examination, seven (7) pictures are of the same truck. Jon stated that the pictures show that there are tarps missing from the trucks. This was brought to the attention of the property owner and they have since stop using trucks that must manually cover their loads. George said that the noise has to be over the duration of an eight (8) hour period, so any loud noises have to be balanced with the period when the workers might be taking lunch break.

6. Parks & Recreation – Joe Weaver reported that the Park Board is working with the Guardian Angels and National Night Out is set for August 5, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. They have not set any definite plans as of yet, but are considering, face painting, games, involving a fire truck and ambulance, a Police Officer explaining bike safety, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts involved, and asking the Wind Gap Athletic Association to have the food stand open. The Park board received grants from the Green Knight Economic Development Corporation in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$2,500. They are accustomed to receiving \$5,000 for the Park and \$5,000 for Summer Sounds so they will have to adjust their spending accordingly. Louise and Scott attended the meeting and Louise informed the board of the public meeting regarding Rails to Trails which would extend the trail from Plainfield Township down to Stockertown. The hope is to connect the Appalachian Trail down to Easton so that it is one continual trail. The board is looking at their Master Plan for projects to be completed in 2009. Joe reported that the fields were damaged due to the car show and the problem still exists with dog feces in the park. Joe did discuss the footage of the surveillance video of the park and no one is sure how long the tapes run before they restart. The Park Board believes that the Police would be looking at the tapes should an incident occur in the park. Louise to call Fox Alarms for information on the cameras. Summer Sounds fliers will be completed soon.
7. Fire Company – Jon Faust reported that the Fire Company responded to 17 calls in the month of April for a total of 69 year to date. Jon asked Council for their signatures on a letter that would be sent to the Northampton County Fire Police Association asking them to direct traffic during the June 28, 2008 Firemen's Parade. Scott asked the how the parade preparation is coming? Jon replied that there have been a lot of positive responses for participation.
8. Sewer Authority – Todd Beil had nothing to report. George asked Todd if he attended? Todd replied that he did not attend.
9. 911 – Tony Curcio was absent.
10. Buildings and Properties – Jon Faust reported that he met a representative from a company who specializes in municipal buildings at the Fire Expo and he is willing to do a free layout of a municipal building to include all the Borough's needs. The Mayor asked to be contacted when the representative is available for a meeting.
11. Finance – Scott Parsons reported that there are several sub-accounts in the Capital Reserve account that could be consolidated. He asked Council to review these accounts.

**On motion** by George Hinton to move the monies in the sub-account for the Third Street Traffic Light in the amount of \$2,625.71 to the street budget and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Louise reported that a representative from the Auditor General is in the office to audit the Police Pension and the Teamster Pension plans. While cutting grass at the firehouse, a street worker inadvertently sent a small stone at the side of a vehicle and caused a minor dent to a vehicle. The owner of the vehicle provided the Borough office with two (2) estimates from local body shops. She did contact the dealership and they indicated that the vehicle could be repaired at a shop of her choosing. She stated that she would like to have the vehicle repaired at a Saylorsburg body shop.

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve the repairs at a cost of \$485 and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Louise stated that she was expecting a report from the Principal Financial Advisor, Jason Bayer, regarding the office pension plan, but it was not received today. Hopefully this will be discussed next month.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mogilski reported that fees collected in April for contractor license was \$50, \$1,300 for the year, amusement license was \$0, \$25 for the year, transient license at \$625 for the year for a grand total collected of \$1,950. The Police Department responded to 160 calls in April for a total of 545 this year. The next COG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Elementary School. The Mayor stated that he received approximately 30 to 40 calls regarding the landlord letters that were sent out to residents. He informed anyone who called just to fill it out and send it out. Kerry stated that it is the same letter that has been sent out for years. It only pertains if the resident is a landlord. The Mayor stated that the live drill on April 26, 2008 went well. The Mayor stated that he typed up the first 180 ordinances and put them on a disk. He asked if all the ordinances could be put on disk. Louise replied that the archiving system must be upgraded. The Mayor asked if all the ordinances could be put on the Borough website? Louise stated that only 15 or 20 ordinances are pertinent to everyday questions such as: the landlord ordinance, the weed ordinance, the fire burning ordinance, the yard sale ordinance. There are close to 500 ordinances, and that amount would overload our available web space. At this time, the office staff does not have the ability to upload ordinances so this would have to be done by our web design company at a hourly rate. It was decided that this would be looked into further. Scott asked that a list be generated before the ordinances are put on the website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Community Wide Yard Sale. **On motion** by George Hinton to hold the Borough's annual yard sale on July 11, July 12 and July 13, 2008 with no permit necessary and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Joe Weaver reported that he and Tony Curcio attended the rental property seminar, but asked that this be discussed at a later date when Tony is in attendance. Joe stated that today he attended a free Energy 101 workshop sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors. The targeted audience was local governments, school districts and hospitals. He stated that it was an eye opener for him. The increases for fuel oil and natural gas has been double digits and is projected to remain that way with no end in sight. They have free analysts to look for obvious places that the borough could save money. He would like to discuss this information with Louise and then have her put together the information on the Borough's consumption figures for the last couple years.
2. Scott reported that all members of Council should have received a copy of the spreadsheet relating to the benefits, but this topic will be discussed during an Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2008.

**On motion** by Todd Beil to adjourn the meeting of May 20, 2008 and seconded by Joe Weaver. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of May 20, 2008 adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator